

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

TRSE-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /070 W

-----106978 280711Z /17

R 271630Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1926

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PO

SUBJECT: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: LOPES CARDOSO GROUP MEETS

REF: LISBON 2667 (DTG 011736Z APR 77)

SUMMARY: PS LEFT WING LEADER LOPES CARDOSO ANNOUNCED THAT HIS GROUP WOULD NOT BECOME A NEW PARTY -- AT LEAST FOR NOW -- AT A WEEKEND MEETING WHICH DREW LEFT WING SOCIALISTS, MILITARY, AND PCP AND CGTP LEADERS. CARDOSO STRONGLY DENOUNCED THE POLICIES OF THE SOARES GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. PS LEFT WINGERS MEET: THE LEFT WING SOCIALIST "WORKERS

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BROTHERHOOD" (FRATERNIDADE OPERARIA-FO), UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF FORMER AGRICULTURAL MINISTER LOPES CARDOSO, HELD ITS FIRST NATIONAL MEETING JUNE 26. IN ADDITION TO LOPES CARDOSO AND PS LABOR LEFTWINGERS KALIDAS BARRETO AND JOSE LUIS GASPAR, THE 300 DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS INCLUDED MILITARY AND LABOR LEFTISTS FROM OUTSIDE THE SOCIALIST PARTY. PRESENT WERE REVOLUTIONARY

COUNCIL MEMBERS MELO ANTUNES, PEZARAT CORREIA, VITOR CRESPO, AND MARTINS GUERREIRO; PCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER JOAQUIM GOMES; AND SEVERAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED CGTP TRADE-UNION FEDERATION. REPRESENTATION FROM THE PS SECRETARIAT WAS VISIBLY ABSENT. LOPES CARDOSO MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS IN HIS KEYNOTE ADDRESS:

-- STABILIZATION AT THE EXPENSE OF WORKERS: THE APPARENT CONSOLIDATION OF DEMOCRACY AND INCREASING STABILITY ARE BEING ACCOMPLISHED AT THE EXPENSE OF WORKING CLASS GAINS. WORKER DEMONSTRATIONS ON MAY 1 AND JUNE 22 SIGNALED INCREASING WORKER DISSATISFACTION WITH GOVERNMENT POLICY.

-- SUPPORT FOR CGTP: THE CGTP IS THE ONLY FORCE TRULY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PORTUGUESE WORKERS.

-- ROLE OF FO: THE FO WAS FORMED TO OPPOSE THE INCORRECT PRACTICES OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY. THE FO WILL STEP UP ITS POLITICAL ACTIVITY.

-- REJECT THE PARTY OPTION: THE WORKERS BROTHERHOOD WILL NOT BECOME A POLITICAL PARTY DESPITE THE WISH OF A MINORITY OF ITS MEMBERS. "AT THIS MOMENT THE CREATION OF A NEW PARTY WOULD BE A DIVISIVE FACTOR TO THE PORTUGUESE LEFT."

2. NEW VIOLENCE IN THE AZORES: SEVERAL SHOTS WERE FIRED EARLY JUNE 26 WITH NO INJURIES RECORDED AT THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HOMES OF THE MILITARY COMMANDER OF THE AZORES BG FERREIRA DE LEMOS AND OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE SCHOOL WHERE SEPERATIST LEADER JOSE ALMEIDA WAS ASSIGNED UNTIL HIS RECENT DISMISSAL BY THE GOVERNMENT.

3. COMMENT: LOPES CARDOSO AND HIS ASSOCIATES PUSHED THE LIMITS OF ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR WITHIN THE PARTY AT THEIR WEEKEND MEETING. THEY CAREFULLY STOPPED SHORT, HOWEVER, OF AN OPEN BREAK WITH THE PS. BOTH THE FO AND THE PS LEADERSHIP ARE UNWILLING TO MAKE THE FIRST MOVE THAT WILL LEAD TO A SPLIT. THE PS LEADERSHIP, HOWEVER, BELIEVES THE FO MAY BE FORCED TO MOVE WHEN THE NEW AGRARIAN REFORM LAW COMES TO A VOTE IN THE ASSEMBLY. OKUN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL PARTIES, PARTY MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS, PARTY ALLIANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LISBON04928
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770230-0002
Format: TEL
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770615/aaaaamsc.tel
Line Count: 108
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8b58da75-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 LISBON 2667
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Aug-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2023245
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: LOPES CARDOSO GROUP MEETS
TAGS: PINT, PO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8b58da75-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009